United Nations S/2000/494

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué of the third meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee for the Lomé Peace Agreement, held at Freetown on 13 May 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45279 (E) 260500 260500

Annex to the letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Economic Community of West African States

Third meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee for the Lomé Peace Agreement

Freetown, 13 May 2000

Final communiqué

1. The third meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee for the Lomé Peace Agreement was held in Freetown on 13 May 2000. The meeting was held in closed session.

2. The meeting was attended by the following ECOWAS member States of the Joint Implementation Committee:

Republic of Ghana
Republic of Guinea
Republic of Liberia
Republic of Mali (ECOWAS Chairman)
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Republic of Sierra Leone

3. Other members of the Joint Implementation Committee and other international supporters for the implementation of the Agreement present at the meeting were:

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Organization of African Unity
United Nations
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

4. The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council of Sierra Leone (AFRC) was also present.

5. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was absent at the meeting.

6. The meeting was held in the spirit of the reaffirmation of the sanctity of the Lomé Peace Agreement and the need to put the peace process back on track following the dramatic turn of events which posed a serious threat to the implementation of the Agreement.

7. The meeting listened to briefings on the current situation by the representative of the Government of Sierra Leone and Johnny Paul Koroma, AFRC Leader and Chairman of the Committee for the Consolidation of Peace.

8. Oluyemi Adeniji, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Sierra Leone also briefed the meeting.

9. Lansaria Kouyate, ECOWAS Executive Secretary provided the meeting with the highlights of the Mini Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, held in Abuja on 9 May 2000.

10. The meeting strongly condemned the taking of United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) personnel hostages by the RUF and called for their unconditional release in accordance with the stance taken by the Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Abuja on 9 May 2000.

11. The meeting also strongly condemned the murder, in cold blood, of some UNAMSIL personnel, and of innocent and unarmed civilians by the RUF.

12. The meeting expressed its support for the continuation of the two-track approach combining dialogue with the military option as provided by the Lomé Peace Agreement.

13. The meeting reaffirmed its support for the Lomé Peace Agreement and called on the RUF to commit itself to its implementation, remove all roadblocks allow, unhindered access to UNAMSIL to all areas under its control and resume fully the disarmament programme. On the specific issue of disarmament, the meeting insisted that all children should immediately be disarmed and should no longer be recruited into the armies of any of the parties to the conflict.

14. The meeting agreed that there was an urgent need to provide UNAMSIL with the requisite manpower, equipment and the legal capacity to enforce the peace in Sierra Leone.

15. The meeting expressed its full support for the mandate given by ECOWAS to President Charles Taylor of Liberia to involve himself personally to ensure the release of all hostages and their equipment and the resumption of implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement.

16. The meeting expressed its support of the outcome of the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government of the Committee on Sierra Leone held in Abuja on 9 May 2000, in particular, the deployment of ECOMOG either within UNAMSIL or on its own.

17. Strongly believing in the sanctity of the Lomé Peace Agreement, the meeting called for the immediate release of all detained RUF representatives in the Government of National Unity who have demonstrated their commitment to the Peace Agreement.

18. The meeting expressed is sincere gratitude to Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Government and people of Sierra Leone for the facilities provided that ensured the success of the meeting.

Done at Freetown, this 13th day of May 2000.